

THE DRIFTWOOD PLAYERS QUARTERLY

the official newsletter of the Driftwood Players of ABERDEEN, WA | EST. 1960

lights of the DRIFTWOOD PLAYERS

The Driftwood Players are thrilled to announce their 62nd Season:

See How They Run

Mentor Directors: Kathe Rowe
Director In Training: McKenna Hansen

The Wedding Singer
The Musical
Director: Alex Eddy

The Humans
Director: Brad Duffy

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time
Director: Brad Duffy

& for Summer 2022 we are excited to bring you multiple productions by

National Theatre Live
The best theatre on the planet. Except for Driftwood, of course.
- Brad Duffy



Ghost Light Off. Stage Lights On!

A theater is not truly complete until it features a ghost light center stage. Ghost lights are, in practice, the only light left on when all the players have left, when the theatre is "dark." They are a theatrical staple that serve a safety function while also satisfying a whimsical age old superstition: keep the theatre ghost at bay. Since March 2020 ghost lights have forcibly been the fashion of quite literally every stage in the world.

The long grueling pandemic & shut-downs have been hard on everyone. In countless ways. It has unquestionably been a dark time for the theatre world at large. And it is not an exaggeration to state that this last year and a half has been the most devastating economic and emotional time for live performance art in recent history. Theatres across the globe are struggling to bounce back. And many have already had to close their doors for good. While many others are on the verge with their future riding on the financial success or failure of their upcoming season. The Driftwood Players are beyond proud to say that we have survived. We have not been as successful as others to get federal relief grants, but thanks to our loyal patrons & years of their generosity we can confidently tell the world that we are 62 years strong & still fighting! It is officially time for us to turn our ghost light off & hit the stage running! We are so very pleased to inform you that we are reopening our doors to welcome audiences IN for LIVE theatre in the form of a stellar season line-up of stand out, award-winning shows.

Due to the economic impact of the pandemic, inflation, lumber and paint prices at an all time high, royalties rising (licenses you need to purchase to perform a show), needing a new ROOF, and our theater getting set

Ghost Light CONT.

on FIRE we have decided, finally, after 8 years, to raise our ticket prices \$3, to be \$18, so that we can continue to offer high-quality live entertainment and theatrical opportunities to the citizens of Grays Harbor. We are still offering \$10 Student Rush tickets at the door, and don't forget about our Pay What You Can Nights! We want everyone in our community to be able to experience live theatre, so we offer this for every show in our season on the Friday performance of the 2nd weekend.

Help us keep our doors open by becoming a season ticket holder. This purchase in advance helps us immensely by creating operating money that allows us to create the quality productions that our audiences have come to expect from us. Plus, you get 5 shows for the price of 4! Besides, you do not want to miss a single show this season, Scout's honor! We have a diverse and exciting line-up with something for everyone. Also, think about this: the directors have been marinating in these shows for over 2 years now! They are ready. Or more like, bursting, to get their show on its feet!

Playing with Fire

On May 8th, the cast and crew of Daddy Long Legs had one of the more memorable tech rehearsals in recent memory. Shortly before the cast and crew arrived, Director, Board President & bridge aficionado, Brad Duffy, encountered a woman not connected to the production on the back porch. When asked to leave, the woman responded by setting a portion of the porch on fire. Brad contacted the police and fire department.

The police arrested the woman and took her to jail. After the police left, the production team could still smell and see smoke and the Aberdeen Fire Department returned to work on the backstage area. Shortly afterwards the all-clear was given. Everyone was allowed to go back inside the building where tech rehearsal went on as planned. The fire damaged the back



Kathe Rowe



DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

For our Season Opener, we are making a return to our roots. See How They Run was the very first play Driftwood ever produced 62 years ago, so what better way to welcome back patrons after a year & a half in the dark? Director-in-training McKenna Hansen is being mentored by Driftwood favorite Kathe Rowe in this classic WWII farce. Taking place in an English vicarage, mistaken identities and compounding complications lead to a hilarious climax that's sure to leave the audience with a smile and maybe even sore abs from continuous and hearty laughter! Kathe Rowe, who most recently directed Always... Patsy Cline, The Rainmaker and Nuncrackers says "I am

McKenna Hansen



"I am pleased to be mentoring McKenna Hansen. I am confident in her directing abilities. This show is an action-packed fun ride that should appeal to all audiences. We chose to do this revival of Driftwood Players' first show as an homage to 60+ years of community theatre. It is gratifying that the tradition will continue with new directors." Kathe is a GH grown HHS grad who received a BA in theatre & speech from WSU. Kathe spent most of her 30s traveling, but she would always find a theatre to call home. She even acted and directed at a theatre in Italy. Kathe considers herself to be a "scaffolding director." She chooses the foundation (casts the show) and yields the freedom to the actors to let the pieces fit where they may, so that everyone involved can build the show together. The process is her favorite part. McKenna shares this appreciation for the collaborative nature of mounting a show. McKenna says, "the strong bonds formed between the cast and crew and that group determination" is what gives her faith that a show is going to work. And even though this show is "going to be difficult in terms of blocking and pacing," which are notoriously the toughest challenges of staging a farce, "the camaraderie, like when everyone couldn't stop laughing during the read-thru, that's how I know this show is going to be great."

McKenna's passion for theatre began when she was a student in Patty Sundstrom's long established drama program at HHS. Since then, McKenna has acted tirelessly and has gained off-stage experience as well. She has studied theatre at GHC under professors Brad Duffy, Lynne Lerych and Dr. Andrew Gaines. She was the Director's Assistant for Driftwood's production of The Language Archive, and the Stage Manager for Always...Patsy Cline. The first time McKenna took the reins in directing was for GHC's 2019 10-Minute Play Festival. She directed a piece called About Right. "The hardest part was casting," she says, "but the cast I picked ended up being great. They were fun and hard working, much like our cast for See How They Run."

what we've been up to in the dark...



Don't Stop Believin', Driftwood Is Streamin'

Even though we could not welcome you into our theater, we did, however, get some actors back on our stage, and brought theatre directly into your living room. Our streaming efforts were an attempt to fulfill our mission to provide theatre to our community in any way we could. Was it the same as having a live audience? No. Was it worth it? Yes. The Driftwood Players were one of the few theatres in the Pacific Northwest to offer actual live performances streamed in real time. We're very proud of our three live-streamed productions: Constellations, Gin Game, and Daddy Long Legs. We are grateful for the hard work and dedication of the cast and crew of each show. Although we do consider these shows a success, the consensus was that theatre is just not the same without our beloved patrons in attendance. A live audience is something that a play needs in order to come to full fruition. You, the audience, play a vital role in the theater. You are what makes each and every performance unique. The actor feeds off the energy that an engaged audience gives to the space, and reacts accordingly. That energy is also what keeps a show alive and moving forward. Which is also the very thing that makes stage acting so different from film acting. We would like to offer a huge thank you to everyone who tried something new by watching and supporting our live-streamed plays.

SPOTLIGHT CONT.

When it comes to casting, McKenna & Kathe share another directing sentiment: casting against type. While casting, McKenna considers "talent above all else. Having a cast who looks the part only goes so far." She recounts that "because of her size, she has missed out on many dream roles." So, she finds nontraditional casting refreshing. "It's nice, confidence wise, to see someone on stage who looks like you in a lead role. It's like 'oh, hey, I could do that too! Someone just needs to give me a chance.'" And Kathe very well could be that director to give you that chance. Kathe says that "she can see potential in people that they don't see in themselves. An actor can't get any better if they don't get the opportunity to be on stage."

On directing so far McKenna says "it's kind of like being a president. Without the weight of a country on your shoulders." But she does have the weight of our season opener on her shoulders! Come see how it turns out and decide if you would vote to keep Miss Hansen in office as a Driftwood Director.



Want to watch our new roof being installed in real time?

Check our website! We have a webcam setup on top of the driving school across the street so that you can watch the progress in a live stream.

Follow us on Facebook for the most current updates, audition announcements, & behind the scenes content



Driftwood Players



Business As Usual

Streaming shows was not the only thing keeping the Driftwood Players busy during COVID, oh no, our members haven't wasted this time in the dark. Driftwood's board of trustees have been holding monthly meetings over Zoom since the pandemic hit the U.S. in full. The annual trustee election held in June had favorable results. Congratulations to our 2021-2022 board of directors:

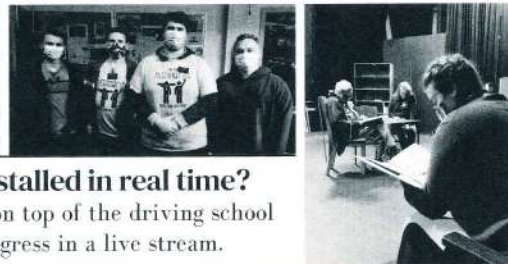
President	Erad Duffy
Vice President	Debbie Scoones
Secretary	Bryan Elackburn
Treasurer	Ben Hohman
Business Manager	Sue Keltner
Building and Grounds	Ed Logue
Building and Grounds Asst.	Michael Solan
Children's Theatre	Jordan Wolfe
Costumes	Rhonda Kennedy
Costumes Asst.	Julie Skokan
Front of House	Art Hoover
Fundraising	Terry Rogers
Hair and Make-up	Natasha Brown-Williams
Lights and Sound	Jeff Rockwell
Lights and Sound Asst.	Alex Eddy
Newsletter	Julayne Fleury
Programs	Eri Eonell
Properties	Jeff Beard
Publicity	Debbie Scoones
Publicity Assistant	Daryl Johnson
Sets	Julayne Fleury
Sets Asst.	Jeff Ryser
Social Media	Conner Nuckols
Social Media Asst.	Eri Eonell
Volunteer Coordinator	Julie Skokan
Volunteer Coordinator Asst.	Kathe Rowe
Website	Larry Tingwall

And another congratulations is in order for Olympia native Jim Patrick, who after being mentored by Ben Hohman on Driftwood's 2020 production of Bell, Book and Candle, was voted in as an approved Driftwood Players Director. Even more exciting, Jim is already slated to direct All My Sons by American playwright giant, Arthur Miller, for Driftwood's 2022 season opener.

Thank you to the Grays Harbor Therapeutic Court & The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Aberdeen for coming in to help us do some SERIOUS spring cleaning!

FIRE CONT.

porch, backstage door, the floor underneath and surrounding that door. The stage curtains were deemed unsafe due to smoke damage. Driftwood is very lucky since the damage could have been FAR worse. Insurance will pay for much of the damage and cleaning costs. Thanks to the APD and Erad's quick actions Driftwood's home will survive. AND the next time you come see a show at the Driftwood Theater you will be greeted with beautiful, brand-new curtains!



Costume Closet Clean-out Continues

It all started with a burnt out light bulb. Six years ago when a light bulb needed changing Larry Tingwall couldn't even set up a ladder to do the job because the costume closet was disorganized and full up to the ribcage. This incident sparked a mission to conquer the space. Over the course of six years of weeding through 60 years worth of costumes Kathe Rowe, Margaret Tingwall, Dawn Warren, Teresa DuBois, Val Sulllivan, Val Parker, Rhonda Kennedy and Julie Skokan have succeeded in making quite the dent. Although, if you have seen the before and after, I would venture to say that you are more likely to call that dent a transformation. These instrumental volunteers along with others have given endless hours of time in identifying and sorting quality clothing that can be used for the stage. Rowe says a more accurate term to describe this process is "an archaeological dig."

For years, clothing from the Costume Closet has been donated to local charities such as the Union Gospel Mission, women's shelters, and clothing banks. However, once those programs had taken all they could, something needed to be done with the leftovers. Most recently, current Wardrobe Trustee, Rhonda Kennedy, and her assistant, Julie Skokan have taken the lead on the clean-out. They had the idea to use the leftovers for a fundraiser to replace the woefully outdated lighting in the Costume Closet. Kennedy says "the 1960s technology is too expensive to maintain, and we can't see anything." In an effort to raise enough money to convert to energy-efficient LED lighting, Kennedy & crew bagged up a whopping 4,550 POUNDS of clothing, loaded it all into a U-Haul and drove it to Value Village where they traded it for \$.22 a pound. This massive effort earned us \$1,100. Even though Columbia Electric Supply has offered us a great deal on fixtures, and the labor has been donated, we remain \$500 short to complete this project. Consider donating to help these ladies see, so that they can continue to dress our stage with beautifully costumed actors!

Fun Facts

- Driftwood Players made #4 on the "8 best things to do in Aberdeen, Washington" in an article by VacationIdea magazine on July 1st, 2021
- Driftwood's Gin Game made King 5 News! On their "Above the Fold" segment they gave us a shout out for making the extra effort to stream live theatre during COVID.
- Moliere died after collapsing on stage while acting in one of his own plays - ironically, he was playing the role of the hypochondriac.

Newsletter Contributors: Julayne Fleury, Terry Rogers, Alex Eddy, Kathe Rowe, Rhonda Kennedy, Julie Skokan, Brad Duffy & Matthew Kline

Buy tickets, donate, or check out a comprehensive archive of every single past production on our website aberdeendrftwood.com